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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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#83- 3626

December 7, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over the last few years, there has been a bipartisan consensus on the need to strengthen the nation's intelligence capabilities. This has resulted in sizeable increases in the amount of resources requested by your Administration. These have been authorized and appropriated by the Congress for national and tactical intelligence activities.

As Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I have fully supported this commitment of additional resources, and have recognized that it required consistency over the longer term if we were to assure an adequate intelligence capability in an increasingly troubled world. Intelligence is the first line of defense. If fully capable, intelligence can serve as a potent force in preserving world peace.

I am painfully aware of the pressure being exerted to hold to a lower rate of growth in overall Defense spending. I fear that this same general pressure could act to hold down intelligence expenditures, and that this could result in a dangerously inadequate intelligence capability in the years ahead. This prospect is of particular concern given the unrealistic budget projections for the National Foreign Intelligence Program for fiscal years 1986-1988 included in last year's Defense budget.

Assuring a strong intelligence capability is more, not less, important in a period of downward pressure on the Defense budget. I urge you to ensure that the U.S. Intelligence Community has the increased resources it needs despite potential reductions in the military budget request.

Sincerely, *+ with respect.*

Barry
Barry Goldwater
Chairman

cc: Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Honorable William J. Casey
Admiral Albert Burkhalter